

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, and the remarks that follow as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9-13 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 13 are amended and claims 2, 5 and 8 are canceled, without prejudice. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the amended recitations in the claims is found throughout the specification.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "charging process." Applicant has amended claim 13 to have proper antecedent basis. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the 112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/WM7/DRM/FAQ.aspx (hereinafter, "DRM"). Applicant disagrees.

Claim 1, recites in part, "A method of reproducing an information recording medium...wherein the address is data for specifying said server and a home page corresponding to said information recording medium, and said method further comprises a step of accessing the home page corresponding to the information recording medium on the basis of the address to acquire the corresponding key data." (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of DRM relied upon by the Examiner do not teach, suggest or motivate a skilled artisan to practice at least the above-recited feature of claim 1.

DRM relates to a digital rights management system that packages encrypted digital media files on an information recording medium (section "How does Windows Media DRM work?"). However, the information recording medium of the present invention has an address that corresponds to data for specifying a server and a home page corresponding to the information recording medium, and a step of accessing the home page corresponding to the information recording medium on the basis of the address to acquire the corresponding key data.

In particular, one object of the present invention is to have an address recorded on the recording medium (e.g., a compact disc). As a result, the server is accessed on the basis of a URL recorded on, for example, the compact disc and the home page comprising a list of concerts that correspond to the compact disc recorded in the

database can be accessed. In a system that supplies music files to a plurality of users, the home page is displayed as shown in Fig. 4, and when a user selects one of the concerts in a list of concerts on the home page, the list of music files performed in the selected concert are displayed in their performance order by tracing a link set as shown in Fig. 5. DRM does not teach or suggest an address recorded on, for example, a compact disc that fits the above-mentioned description of Figs. 4 and 5. Therefore, the instant claims are believed to be distinguishable from DRM for at least the reasons stated above.

For reasons similar to those described above, claims 4, 7 and 10 are also believed to be distinguishable from DRM.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 have been canceled. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection to claims 2, 5 and 8 be withdrawn as moot.

Claims 3, 6, 9 and 12 depend from one of claims 1, 4, 7 and 10, and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from DRM for at least the reasons previously described.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DRM be withdrawn.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is the bases for a contrary view.

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Respectfully submitted,
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